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Reopening Arizona's economy

Advice sought from business, tourism leaders on reviving state



Russ Wiles and Helena Wegner Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

Testing, treatment, social distancing and other health safeguards remain top priorities for stemming the new coronavirus outbreak in Arizona. But government and business leaders are starting to look toward the day, possibly within a few weeks, when the state's economy might start to reopen. ■ Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, President Donald Trump and leaders of other states all have discussed the need to reawaken business activity, with governors in a few states already outlining what it will take to do that.

At a Tuesday press conference, Ducey vowed to "reenergize" Arizona's economy "one step at a time."

Arizona was leading in economic momentum heading into the downturn, and "Arizona will lead on the way out," he said.

The governor said his office sent letters to Arizona business and tourism leaders seeking recommendations on how best to revive the economy "in the coming weeks."

Ducey noted that the state's executive order is slated to run through the end of the month, but the governor said that date would change if

necessary.

While Arizona is seeking recommendations, governors of several other states have formed groups to coordinate recovery efforts.

One is a "Western States Pact" that includes California, Oregon and Washington. Another includes seven East Coast states including New York. These working groups will feature input from public health, economic and government officials.

At his Tuesday press conference, Ducey didn't show interest in

See REOPENING, Page 4A

TOP: Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey gives an update on the state's COVID-19 pandemic response during a press conference at the Arizona Commerce Authority in Phoenix on Tuesday.

ROB SCHUMACHER/
THE REPUBLIC

ABOVE: As many Valley residents work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, Washington Street in downtown Phoenix appears empty of people and cars.

MICHAEL CHOW AND
THOMAS HAWTHORNE/
THE REPUBLIC

COVID-19 IN ARIZONA

Nursing homes see big jump in virus deaths

Anne Ryman and Caitlin McGlade

Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Long-term care facilities in Maricopa and Pima counties have over the past week seen a spike in COVID-19 cases, and now account for nearly half of all coronavirus-related deaths in Maricopa County.

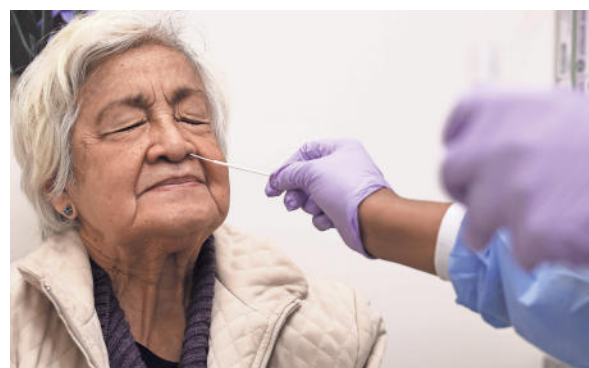
As of Tuesday, Maricopa County had 198 cases at 42 long-term care facilities, a 200% percent increase in just over a week. Sixty-five have been hospitalized, and 32 have died of COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus. That represents half of the county's 60 total deaths.

"These are the people who are most vulnerable to severe disease and why we're really putting our efforts, focusing on keeping them safe," said Dr. Rebecca Sunenshine, medical director for disease control at Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

Another 110 cases have been reported among staff at long-term care facilities in Maricopa County, a category that includes skilled nursing homes, assisted living, rehabilitation and hospice. Maricopa County has about 500 such facilities. No deaths have been reported among staff.

See DEATHS, Page 7A

USA TODAY



Cecilia Wong has the back of her nasal passage swabbed while being tested Wednesday for COVID-19 in Woodbridge, Va.

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/ GETTY IMAGES

Millions of relief checks start flowing into bank accounts of Americans

Government relief checks began arriving in Americans' bank accounts on Wednesday. The world's biggest economy began issuing one-time payments this week to tens of millions of people as part of its \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief package.

But in a sign of what the U.S. might encounter soon, sluggish sales at reopened stores in Europe and China made it clear that business won't necessarily bounce right back when the crisis eases.

Story, Page 6A

TRADE IS FINAL SPORTS, 1B



By passing his physical, DeAndre Hopkins is now officially an Arizona Cardinal, completing a deal announced last month. KELVIN KUO/USA TODAY NETWORK

Rethinking baseball in AZ

Having all Major League Baseball teams play in Arizona may not be as crazy as initially thought. Columnists Phil Boas and Greg Moore weigh in. 10A, 1B

Make boba tea at home

Just because you're stuck in home isolation doesn't mean you have to sacrifice a great cup of boba tea. We have a recipe so you can make it yourself. 1C

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